

Sisters' S. C. E.

FROM THE PRESIDENT.

DEAR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS:—A short time ago I talked to you of consecration as an element of success in Christian work. To-day I want to talk to you of faithfulness. The element of character most in favor with God is faithfulness, and even man learns in time to place the same estimate upon it. In our younger years we are dazzled by success, by power, by brilliancy, but as we learn to know more of life, and of the world, we learn to prize faithfulness above every other trait or element of character. We may still admire talent, tact, skill and success, but when we have learned the true value of all elements of character, we choose for our friends and helpers those who at all times are faithful. The Bible is full of beautiful examples of faithfulness. Abraham faithful to God, even to the building of an altar to slay his son; Job faithful to God, in the midst of all the adversities, bereavements and afflictions that came upon him. The three Hebrew children faithful to God, even in the face of the king's decree, that whosoever would not worship the golden image in Dura should be cast bound into the awful heat of the fiery furnace, heated to seven times its usual intensity. Jonathan faithful in his friendship to David. Ruth in her attachment to her mother-in-law. Rizpah in her vigilance over the dead bodies of her children. Moses in refusing to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, and going forth to serve his people. John in his fidelity to Christ on lonely Patmos. Paul before kings and governors, and in dungeons. Most beautiful of all, most noble, most inspiring, is the example of Jesus Christ. No higher word of commendation can be said of any one than that he was faithful. No higher word of praise was ever spoken of the blessed Son of God, than that he was faithful. "Faithful to him that appointed him," faithful in all things.

When tempted in the desert to prove his sonship, his divinity, in Satan's way, instead of God's way, and to use his God-given powers for himself, he was faithful to him that appointed him. In prosperity, when men were ready to crown him and worship him, he pointed them beyond himself to God. When in Gethsemane, he peered into the mystery of suffering, while the blood-drops plashed among the leaves, and when he hung upon Calvary, bearing the world's sins, he had but to speak the word, and he could have been saved, but he was faithful and tasted death for every man.

O for more such faithfulness in the world to-day! O for more faithfulness to duty, more faithfulness of man to man, more faithfulness to God and the church! How beautiful is the faithful life. Look at the faithful teacher to whom is entrusted the children of the community. He is always at his post of duty. He has a high sense of duty. He feels the responsibility of his work, and he bends all his energies to that work, is never careless, never neglects his duty, never sleeps at his post, never deserts it. Is not that life beautiful? Take the farmer, or the clerk, or the business man, men of any calling, who can always be depended upon, always trusted, who never break their word, who keep all their promises, who, if they contract to do a work for you, will not only do it, but do it right, and the world cannot but praise the beauty of such faithfulness. Take it in the churches. A man confesses Christ and unites with the church. The church's interest becomes his interests. In the church's service, he takes his place. In the church's work, he does his share. You give him a work to do, an office to fill, a duty to perform and you need never question but that it will be done, no matter what it costs in effort and self-sacrifice. You need not urge, or plead, or insist. It is *his* church. He is interested in her success, and *he is faithful*—HE IS FAITHFUL, that is the story of his life all told, and it is the highest commendation that can be passed upon any life.

Not only is such faithfulness beautiful to man, and pleasing to God, but it insures success. The faithful life is the successful life in the very highest sense. Such faithfulness we must carry into our S. S. C. E. work if we would make it a success. We must be faithful to its interests, its trusts, its duties, watching for every opportunity to promote its good. And dear sister or brother, this applies to *you*, whether you are an officer or only a member of this society. If *you* are faithful you are helping to insure its success; if *you* are unfaithful, no matter how humble you may feel yourself, no matter how little value you may set upon your own ability to help in this work, no matter how low an estimate you may place upon your work, if you are careless, and negligent, and indifferent, *you* are hindering its progress. Only faithfulness on the part of all will insure complete success. And such faithfulness will bring a rich reward. "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things." He who is faithful over the few things of earth, the few duties, the few trusts, will be ruler over many things in heaven. And it will be a blessed thing

to say to the Lord, with reference to the charge committed to us "Lord it is done as thou hast commanded;" to be able to say, "I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work that thou gavest me to do." Shall we be able to say this?

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.

ASHLAND SOCIETY.

At a regular meeting of the S. S. C. E. of the Ashland church, the sisters pledged themselves to take up the work suggested by Mrs. Dr. U. M. Beachly, of Meyers-Pa. We will each make some article to bring to the Conference next fall. Now I believe a good work can be done, if we stand by and help each other. Let us hear from some of our other societies as to what you think of the plan suggested by our sister of Meyersdale, Pa. I hope the Lord will bless our societies everywhere.

Fraternally,

MRS. A. D. GNAGEV.

King's Children.

FROM PORTIS, KAN.

As correspondent for the K. C. of this place I wish to submit the following report for publication in your next issue. Our K. C. society met Saturday evening Feb. 2, and added to the corps of officers a list of active committeemen. The membership is increasing and now numbers thirty-seven. We expect to increase in power and number, and wield an influence for good.

FROM GRAVELTON, IND.

I was appointed to write for the K. C. paper this month. Our K. C. has not met for two or three weeks. Mr. Calvert has been holding meetings for three weeks. His meetings closed last Sunday night and one man was baptized on the 21st inst. One of my cousins got his leg broke last week while he was helping to bale hay. The roads were badly drifted yesterday, and the men went to work with shovels and opened them.

VERNA W. DRAKE.

Feb. 29.

Turn a telescope on a star, and at the instant when the instrument has reached the right position the light flashes through the tube and produces an image of the star in the dark chambers of the telescope. Just so when the human will yield to God there flashes through the human spirit the light from the orb of heaven, and there is found within us the star of a sense of forgiveness, a star which the Bible itself calls the day-star, and unto which, as it avers, we do well to give heed.—Joseph Cook.